

REMARKS

In the August 19, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-123, 158, and 159, and rejected claims 124-157 and 160-172 pending in the application. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, Applicant amends claims 54, 124, 125, 131, 141, 142, 148, 160, and 166-170. Support for the amended claims may be found in the originally filed specification, and thus, no new matter is added by this amendment. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-172 (16 independent claims; 172 total claims) remain pending in the application. Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowance of claims 1-123, 158, and 159 in the Office Action. In addition, Applicant notes that the Examiner acknowledgment that Applicant's reply of May 24, 2004 complies with the Office Action of March 23, 2004. As requested, Applicant submits new formal drawings (6 Figures, 4 Drawing Sheets) with this reply to the Office Action.

CLAIM REJECTIONS FROM THE OFFICE ACTION

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 125-140, 142-157, and 167 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Applicant has amended independent claims 124, 141, and 166 to further clarify the invention. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection with respect to claims 125-140, 142-157, and 167.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) - Garback Reference

Claims 124, 140, 141, 157, 160-166, and 168-169 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Garback, U.S. Patent No. 5,237,499, issued August 17, 1993 (hereinafter "Garback"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and provides the following arguments in support.

Garback is limited to a computer travel planning system that processes travel requests directed to a specific venue from individual members of a sponsored group. With reference to Figures 2A-2E, the Garback system receives a travel request, retrieves travel information, and checks the availability of airlines, hotel, and cars for the travel request. The Garback system will also perform pricing checks by checking published fares. Moreover, as noted by the Examiner, the Garback system is limited to just looking at the airline availability (see Figure 2A, block 47). Garback does not teach or suggest, *inter alia*, "determining constraints, from the demand and supply information **and** the carrier goal information, on allocating the trips to the carriers, wherein the constraints comprise link demand constraints, carrier supply constraints, and carrier goal constraints" (emphasis added) as recited in amended independent claims 124, 141, 160, 166, 168, and 169. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection with respect to claims 124, 140, 141, 157, 160-166, and 168-169.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) - Webber Reference

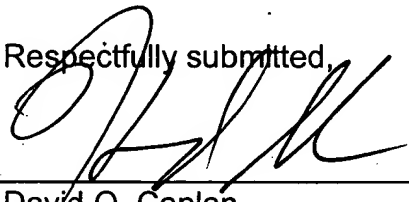
Claims 170-172 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Webber, U.S. Patent No. 5,021,953, issued June 4, 1991 (hereinafter "Webber"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and provides the following arguments in support.

Webber is limited to a travel planner system that automatically constructs itineraries with available seats for a traveler's trip request. The Webber system will perform a satisfactory check on whether a connecting flight distance exceeds that of a possible direct flight by a preset distance or ratio. The Webber system will display the various available itineraries to the user. Webber is limited to just looking at the airline availability. Webber does not teach or suggest, *inter alia*, "constructing a set of constraints from the demand and supply information **and** the carrier goal information" (emphasis added) as recited in amended independent claim 170. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection with respect to claims 170-172.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,

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